IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original). A developing device, comprising:

a toner supplying roller configured to supply a one-component toner for developing an image;

a developing roller configured to transfer the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and to move away from the developing position;

a sealing member arranged in a vicinity of the developing roller and configured to seal the one-component toner within the developing device; and

a toner layer regulating roller arranged in contact with the developing roller and configured to lock a rotating operation in the image forming operation, to regulate the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the developing roller into a thin layer, and to freely follow the developing roller in a non-image forming operation.

Claim 2 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 3 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 4 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the developing roller is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 5 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein the developing roller performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the developing roller passes by the developing position.

Claim 6 (Original). The developing device according to claim 1, wherein a rotation number of the developing roller in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the developing roller in the image forming operation.

Claim 7 (Original). A developing device, comprising:

means for supplying a one-component toner for developing an image;

means for transferring the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and for moving away from the developing position;

means arranged in a vicinity of the means for transferring for sealing the one-component toner within the developing device; and

means arranged in contact with the means for transferring for locking a rotating operation in the image forming operation, for regulating the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the means for transferring into a thin layer, and for freely following the means for transferring in a non-image forming operation.

Claim 8 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 9 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 10 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the means for transferring is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 11 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein the means for transferring performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the means for transferring passes by the developing position.

Claim 12 (Original). The developing device according to claim 7, wherein a rotation number of the means for transferring in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the means for transferring in the image forming operation.

Claims 13 -17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Original). A process cartridge, comprising:

an image bearing member;

and a developing device which comprises, a toner supplying roller configured to supply a one-component toner for developing an image;

a developing roller configured to transfer the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and to move away from the developing position;

a sealing member arranged in a vicinity of the developing roller and configured to seal the one-component toner within the developing device; and

a toner layer regulating roller arranged in contact with the developing roller and configured to lock a rotating operation in the image forming operation, to regulate the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the developing roller into a thin layer, and to freely follow the developing roller in a non-image forming operation.

Claim 19 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 20 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 21 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the developing roller is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 22 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein the developing roller performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the developing roller passes by the developing position.

Claim 23 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 18, wherein a rotation number of the developing roller in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the developing roller in the image forming operation.

Claim 24 (Original). A process cartridge, comprising:

an image bearing member;

and a developing device which comprises, means for supplying a one-component toner for developing an image;

means for transferring the one-component toner to a developing position by performing a developing rotation in an image forming operation and for moving away from the developing position;

means arranged in a vicinity of the means for transferring for sealing the one-component toner within the developing device; and

means arranged in contact with the means for transferring for locking a rotating operation in the image forming operation, for regulating the one-component toner which adheres on a surface of the means for transferring into a thin layer, and for freely following the means for transferring in a non-image forming operation.

Claim 25 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring performs the developing rotation subsequently after a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation.

Claim 26 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation of a setup operation of the developing device.

Claim 27 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring sequentially performs a reverse rotation and the developing rotation in the non-image forming operation after the means for transferring is unused for a period longer than a predetermined period.

Claim 28 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein the means for transferring performs a reverse rotation in the non-image forming operation during a time that a non-toner covered region of the means for transferring passes by the developing position.

Claim 29 (Original). The process cartridge according to claim 24, wherein a rotation number of the means for transferring in the non-image forming operation is smaller than the rotation number of the means for transferring in the image forming operation.